

NARRATIVE REPORT

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

WINONA, MINNESOTA

JULY 1, 1974-JUNE 30, 1975

REFUGE PERSONNEL

Wayne E. Gueswel	Refuge Manager
Dr. William E. Green	Wildlife Biologist (Management)
Carl E. Pospichal	Refuge Manager (Assistant)
Michael Willett	Administrative Assistant
Jay Hamernick	Refuge Manager (Public Use)
(trnsfr. 7/7/74)	
Hilma L. Volk	Refuge Manager (Public Use)
(trnsfr. 9/1/74)	
Lorraine A. Joswick	Clerk-Steno
Duncan E. Green	Maintenanceman

DISTRICT MANAGERS

	Refuge Manager	Winona District
Jerry F. Leinecke (trnsfr. 9/15/74)	" "	" "
Stanley S. Cornelius (e.o.d. 12/8/74)	" "	" "
Hilma L. Volk (trnsfr. from hdqtrs.)	" " (Asst.)	" "
Kenneth O. Butts (e.o.d. 7/7/74)	" "	La Crosse "
Peter T. Smith	" " "	" "
Douglas M. Mullen	" "	Lansing "
William H. Hutchinson (trnsfr. 1/17/75)	" "	Cassville "
Robert E. Wilson (e.o.d. 9/17/74 from Guttenberg District)	" "	" "
Thomas D. Atkins	" "	Savanna "
Steven W. Breeser	" " "	" "



Front row, 1 to r: Atkins, Willett, Breeser, Volk, Pospichal and Cornelius; Back row: Gueswel, Wilson, Butts, Mullen, Joswick, Smith, Bill Green and Dunc Green.

HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

The Great River Environmental Action Team, "GREAT I", was organized during this report period to investigate some of the many problems concerning the ecology of the upper Mississippi River. The area covered was the St. Paul District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Cooperators include the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, the Soil Conservation Service, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission. The general public is encouraged to participate in the program through public meetings held periodically and through dissemination of information through program publications and the news media.

Members of the refuge staff in Winona served on four work groups relative to studies of these problems and courses of action which might solve or alleviate them. These work groups include Recreation, Fish and Wildlife, Side Channel Openings and Flood Plain Management. Considerable time was spent on field investigations, study sessions and discussion meetings at various sites along the River. Other work groups reported at general sessions during which all studies were tied together and evaluated. These groups included Dredging Requirements, Material and Equipment Needs, Sediment and Erosion Control, Baseline Data Coordination, Dredged Material Uses, Water Quality and Commercial Transportation.

Contracts to colleges for research data are yielding considerable information which will aid in future studies.

Results of work to date are encouraging. Continued progress will depend a great deal upon future funding.

Winona office personnel also provided input to the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee throughout the year by participating on the Water Use and Recreation Committee, the Wildlife Committee and the Law Enforcement Committee.

Public use studies included an inventory of all access and recreation facilities and the relative quality of these facilities. Needs will be evaluated on the basis of use and demand.

Wildlife Management stressed increased participation in Mississippi River wildlife studies by the states located along the upper river.

Highlights of the Law Enforcement Committee included field exercises on containment of a hypothetical oil spill and hazing of waterfowl from a possible spill area. These exercises included personnel from

several states, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U. S. Coast Guard. Full equipment was deployed at the sites, including containment booms and assorted watercraft with radio communications. Hazing equipment tested included rockets, shell crackers and propane exploders. All aspects of the exercises and estimated damage were fully evaluated and discussed at subsequent meetings. Much of value was learned, and the organization of personnel and equipment much improved. Hazardous spill substance contingencies were studied extensively.

Quad-state enforcement cooperation was continued through the annual meeting among enforcement personnel of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota and Fish and Wildlife people from the Upper Mississippi Refuge. The Wisconsin officers hosted the meeting at Goose Island near La Crosse. Each year the regulations of the various states are discussed, along with any changes or suggestions for improvement in problem areas. The result has been good working relations among the various agencies and a better understanding of the operations of each.

Refuge employees attended the following training courses:

Nov. 04-08, 1974	- Lorraine Joswick	- Small Purchases
Apr. 21-25, 1975	- Hilma Volk Steve Breaser Ken Butts	- Intro to Supervision
Apr. 14-18, 1975	- Michael Willett	- Budget Formulation
May 19-23, 1975	- Peter Smith	- Basic Management Functions
May 21-22, 1975	- Carl Pospichal Bob Wilson Tom Atkins	- Law Enforcement
May 19-22, 1975	- Hilma Volk Ken Butts	- Law Enforcement

SIGNATURE PAGE

Submitted by:

William E. Ansel
(Signature)

Ref. Mgr.
Title

Date: _____

Approved, Regional Office:

Date: 2/9/76

[Signature]
(Signature)

[Signature]
Regional Refuge Supervisor

NATIONAL SIGN CENTER

The National Sign Center continues to grow--a new warehouse has been built containing 2,000 additional square feet of storage area. We have also installed a new reproduction camera, capable of reproducing a 24 x 24 inch negative. Two new employees have been added--Roland Shults, who transferred from Tule Lake, and Daniel Samp as an art illustrator--bringing the total employees at the sign center to five. We have also participated in the CETA program, providing work for one to four youths in fabricating and packaging signs.

During fiscal year '75, we completed and shipped 172 sign requests--126 from refuges, 16 fish hatcheries, 11 wetland districts, 14 special projects, and 5 fishery research centers.

Type and number of signs fabricated at the center are as follows:

Series E - entrance	reflective	81
" I - information	"	421
" I - interpretive	"	378
" S - rec. symbols	" & nonreflective	1,250
Special projects	" "	291
Traffic control	" "	98
Waterfowl production	duck stamp dollars	6,500
Bureau decals (old type)		1,500
Trail signs	silk screened	856
Sign repair kits		39

Wood routed signs:

Series E - entrance	12
Waterfowl production	61
Special recognition	3
	<hr/>
	11,490

The R-series, or regulatory signs, are not included in the above figures; however, over 16,000 new aluminum regulatory signs were shipped to various field stations and sign supply depots. Four thousand new vinyl sign faces were shipped to be installed over existing signs in the field. We have also placed 12,000 of the new A.B.S. plastic boundary signs in the field at half the cost of aluminum signs. Over 6,000 obsolete aluminum signs have been recycled; these were the yellow public fishing signs.

It might also be interesting to know that these signs were shipped from Maine to Hawaii and Florida to Alaska. Some of the signs were fabricated in five different languages.

The National Sign Center has developed into a major operation. We realize that the surface has only been scratched in upgrading our sign needs on all field stations. Hopefully, in the future we will be able to supply signs to a requesting station within three months from the ordering date. In some cases, we will be able to supply them the day we receive the order, if we have them on hand.

It seems that about 70% of our new vinyl signs are being erected in the southern and southwestern states. Some of the first refuges to be re-signed were Havasu and Imperial in Arizona, Bosque Del Apache in New Mexico, St. Marks in Florida and Noxubee in Mississippi.

We have experienced some deterioration, vinyl cracking, adhesion problems, vandalism and salt-water problems. Other problems of concern are proper edge sealing and sign erection. We are working in close relation with 3-M people trying to rectify these problems.

Date: 12-17-75

Submitted by: Benjamin R. Chio
Benjamin R. Chio
Sign Center Supervisor

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Wayne E. Gueswel
Refuge Manager